

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-7, 14-20, and 23-31 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 7 being the independent claims. No claim amendments are made at this time. Claims 21 and 22 were previously cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 8-13 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein as being directed to a non-elected Group. New claims 26-31 are sought to be added. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute similar or broader claims, with respect to the cancelled and amended claims, in the future. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Response to Restriction Requirement

In reply to the restriction requirement in the Office Action dated January 16, 2009, requesting an election of one Group to prosecute in the above-referenced patent application, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute Group I, represented by claims 1-7, 14-20, and 23-31. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or embodiments disclosed.

This election is made without traverse.

Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

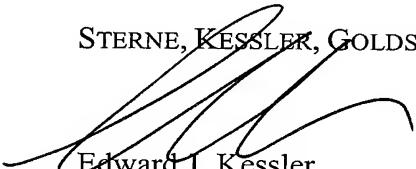
Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the

Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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